

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0453

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. ALEKSEYEVA DEPARTS MOSCOW FOR ROME JANUARY 12. WE HAVE ASKED GENEVA TO COORDINATE WITH WCC TO INSURE THAT HER CASE IS QUICKLY TRANSFERRED TO NAPLES. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE IN SPECIFIC EMIGRATION CASES WITHOUT WHICH MANY PEOPLE LIKE ALEKSEYEVA MIGHT NOT EVER GET OUT.

2. WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR NOTIFICATION THAT VISA PETITION FOR KARO PETROSSIAN HAS BEEN APPROVED. HE TOLD US ON ONE OF HIS NUMEROUS VISITS TO CONSULAR SECTION THAT HE TALKED TO HIS SISTER BY TELEPHONE. SHE REPORTEDLY ASSURED HIM THAT REQUEST FOR PETITION HAD BEEN FILED WITH INS LOS ANGELES. WE ARE SENDING A TELEGRAM TO INS LOS ANGELES REQUESTING STATUS OF PETITION ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH INS DISTRICT DIRECTORS RECEIVED LAST YEAR. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, HAD MUCH LUCK WITH THIS PROCEDURE, PARTICULARLY WHERE INS LOS ANGELES IS INVOLVED, WHICH IS AMONG SLOWEST TO RESPOND. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE YOU OR VO COULD
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PROVIDE IN EXPEDITING PETITION APPROVAL.

3. WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO MEL AND SANDRA. PLEASE ALSO PASS ON OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO JACK SCANLAN, BILL DYESS, WARREN ZIMMERMAN AND GEORGE HUMPHREY. (THE HUMPHREY DOUBLE HEADER IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE*)

4. RE AFSA CABLES: I DO NOT ROUTINELY SEE THEM, SINCE C&R HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO TRANSMIT AFSA MESSAGES ON AUTHORITY OF DESIGNATED AFSA REP. OCCASIONALLY I HAVE BEEN PUT ON DISTRIBUTION FOR AN INFO COPY OF INCOMING MESSAGES, BUT GUIDELINES IN THIS RESPECT ARE UNCLEAR TO ME AND TO C&R, AND I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER C&R ALWAYS SENDS ME A COPY OR NOT. ON OUTGOING, THOSE I HAVE SEEN HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO ME BY AFSA REP ON OWN INITIATIVE. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO DO SO AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHETHER I HAVE SEEN ALL OF THEM OR NOT. I HAVE NEVER REQUESTED TO SEE A CABLE, SINCE I WAS NOT SURE THAT THIS IS PROPER, BUT THE EMBASSY IS RUN SO OPENLY THAT I AM CONFIDENT THAT ANY REAL PROBLEM WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE AMBASSADOR, TRACY OR ME BEFORE RESORT IS MADE TO THE AFSA CHANNEL. IN SUM, I REALLY HAVE NO WAY TO BE SURE WHAT TRANSPIRES IN THE AFSA CHANNEL UNLESS AFSA ELECTS TO TELL ME.

5. NEITHER THE AMBASSADOR NOR I KNOW ROMBERG, BUT BILL BROWN DOES AND FEELS THAT HE WOULD BE A VERY STRONG CANDIDATE. PLEASE INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY AND LET US KNOW WHETHER IT IS FEASIBLE SO THAT WE CAN GIVE IT A BIT MORE THOUGHT. CRUCIAL QUESTIONS ARE (1) WHETHER HE COULD OR WOULD ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT (BROWN SAYS THAT AT ONE TIME HIS CHILD HAD A MEDICAL CONDITION WHICH WOULD HAVE PRECLUDED ASSIGNMENT TO MOSCOW); AND (2) CURRENT STATUS OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RUSSIAN. IF RPT IF HE UNABLE TO COME TO MOSCOW, BROWN RECOMMENDS HIS STRONGLY AS HIS SUCCESSOR WITH EPA.

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6. AS YOU WILL NOTE FROM TODAY'S CABLES ON KIEV, FLORENTSIYA DELAY MAY CAUSE US REALLY SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL OUTLAY, AS WELL AS ACUTE MORALE PROBLEM. THE FLORENTSIYA QUESTION IS BY ALL ODDS THE MOST BURNING ISSUE; BY COMPARISON, TRAVEL NOTES AND TELEX ARE MINOR IRRITANTS. THE FLORENTSIYA SITUATION IS ALL THE MORE INEXCUSABLE SINCE THE SOVIETS ARE APPLYING A RULE WHICH THEY HAVE NEVER BEFORE IMPOSED ON OUR OPERATIONS IN THE USSR. WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD RIGHT TO FINISH OFF APARTMENTS IN ANY MANNER WE CHOSE, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET THE CONTINUED STALL IN KIEV TO ANY MOTIVE OTHER THAN DELIBERATE HARASSMENT DESIGNED TO FORCE US TO MEET THEIR UNREASONABLE DEMANDS IN NEW YORK. IF WE ARE UNABLE TO FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE THIS TACTIC UNPROFITABLE TO THEM, WE ARE LIKELY TO FACE NO END OF PROBLEMS ANYTIME WE ARE UNABLE TO GRANT WHATEVER THEY DESIRE IN THE U.S.

7. HAVE WE REQUESTED DEPARTURE OF "UNINDICATED CODEFENDENT" SMUN OFFICIAL FROM N.Y.? DID HE DEPART WITHOUT A REQUEST FROM US? WE WOULD APPRECIATE AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE

ON THE WAY THIS CASE IS BEING HANDLED.

TOON

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